

WORLD BANK'S SUGGESTIONS ON HALDIA PORT

94. SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of Transport recently observed (as reported in the "Hindustan Times" of 15th December, 1965 page 6) that the World Bank has made certain "unexpected and extraordinary suggestions" on Haldia port which in fringe the authority of the Government of India; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY): (a) and (b) It has been noted that some comments attributed to the former Minister of State for Transport on the recent negotiations with the World Bank Appraisal Mission on the Haldia Project have appeared in the Press. As the negotiations with the Bank for a loan are still in progress, it is not possible to furnish precise details of the views exchanged between the two negotiating parties.

MECHANICAL UNLOADING PLANT AT CALCUTTA PORT

*95. SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a mechanical unloading plant has been recently commissioned at Calcutta port; and

(b) if so, the total amount spent on the device and the total quantity of material which the Calcutta port can handle now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON): (a) Yes, A

Marine 'leg' comprising three SKTs (mechanical discharging units) has been installed at one berth in Kidder-pore Docks' Calcutta, to discharge grain_s from vessels and convey the grain to silo bins having a total capacity to hold 19000 tonnes of foodgrains. The trial runs of the SKTs, each of which has a rated capacity of 75 tonnes/hour, have been completed.

(b) The total amount spent on the discharging equipment and the conveyor system to feed the silo comes to approximately Rs. 22 lakhs. The quantum of grain imports expected to be handled at Calcutta is about 2,40,000 tonnes per month during non-monsoon months. The capacity at this port can, however, be stepped up considerably should the overall grain imports have to be substantially increased.

COMPLAINTS REGARDING WORK- ING OF RATIONING ADMINIS- TRATION IN DELHI

96. SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received from several quarters regarding the working of the rationing administration in Delhi; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what action, if any, has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON): (a) Yes, Sir. The complaints mainly related at first to non-issue of ration cards, and later to quality of atta and non-issue of indigenous wheat.

(b) The complaints were looked into promptly and remedial action was taken where necessary. Arrangements were already there at the Circle Rationing Offices for the

prompt issue of ration cards. The atta sold at ration shops was on investigation found to conform to the prescribed standard. The question of issue of indigenous wheat is under active consideration.

PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT FOR I.A.C.

97. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines Corporation propose to provide capacity for three million more passengers during the year 1966; and

(b) if so, the details of the purchases of aircraft which the Corporation is going to make to cope with the increased traffic?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TOURISM (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY): (a) and (b). The I.A.C. had planned to increase the Available Tonne Kilometres from 199.5 million in 1965-66 to 219.52 million in 1966-67. This was on the basis that in addition to the Boeing already on charter from Air India and operating between Bombay and Calcutta the Corporation would secure on charter an additional Boeing from Air India for operation on the Golden triangle Bombay-Calcutta-Delhi-Bombay. They have also envisaged the acquisition during 1966-67 of five Avros-748 aircraft and some feeder route aircraft. However, with the unfortunate loss of a Boeing by Air India and a Caravelle by I.A.C. it may not be possible for the Corporation to achieve the planned Available Tonne Kilometres during 1966-67.

PRICE OF EGG IN DELHI

98. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN: Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOP-

MENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the soaring price of eggs in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to bring the price down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON): (a) and (b). Yes. The problem has been considered and it has been decided to organise the collection and marketing of eggs in Delhi through the Delhi State Wholesale Consumers' Store Ltd. A scheme estimated to cost Rs. 2 lakhs during 1965-66 has been sanctioned by the Government of India; it will be implemented by the Delhi Administration. A sum of Rs. one lakh as share capital and another Rs. one lakh as loan will be advanced to the Store for ensuring supply of balanced poultry feed to the poultry farmers at reasonable rates and assisting them in the marketing of eggs. By reducing the price of poultry feed, and eliminating excessive profit by middle men, the scheme is expected to bring down the egg price in Delhi.

ELECTION PETITIONS

99. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state the number of election petitions still pending before Election Tribunals or Appellate Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN): The number of election petitions still pending are:—

(i) Before Election Tribunals. 13 (ii) Before High Courts ... 5 (iii) Before Supreme Court ... 5